

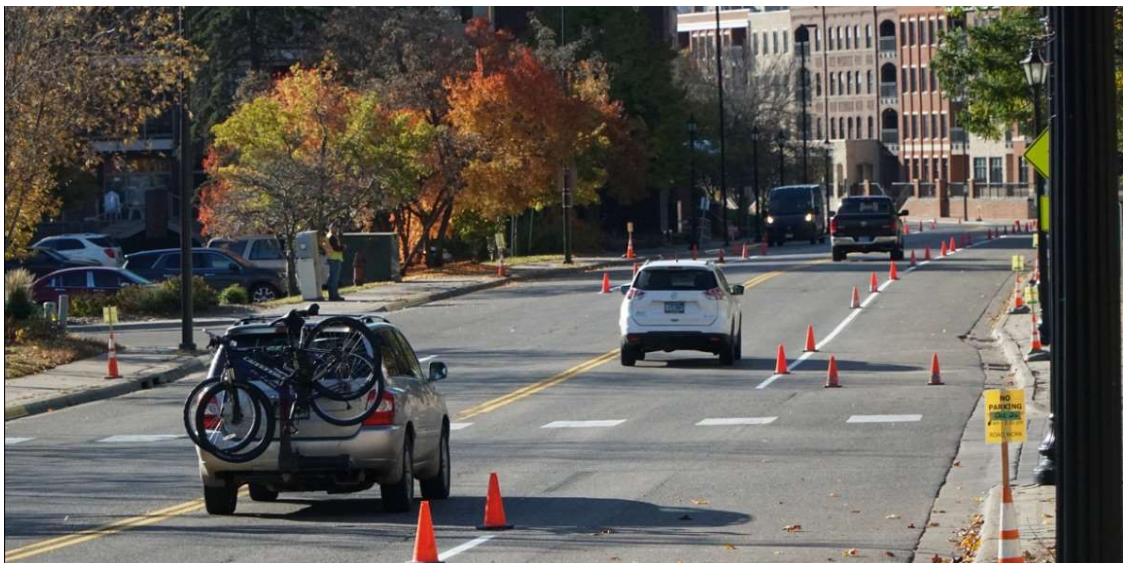
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## November 2019 SSMN Newsletter

Think globally, work locally for a cleaner, greener, more livable Stillwater future.

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In This Issue: Road Diet, Bird City, Solar Gardens, GreenStep, Pollinators, Electric Mowers, Recycling Team, Shelly's Town Hall, Will Steger



### SSMN Achieves Main Street Road Diet!

For decades, the straight portion of North Main Street in Stillwater has been a speed ramp in and out of the 40mph zone north of the Zephyr Theater, despite the growing downtown population and increased activity level. But thanks to the efforts of Sustainable Stillwater MN's Transportation workgroup, the street, which had no lane stripes outside a center lane, now has narrow 11-foot driving

SSMN's Transportation workgroup members pressed for these measures in meetings with Stillwater's Traffic Safety Review Committee, MNDOT, Public Works Director Shawn Sanders, and Minnesota Rep. Shelly Christensen for over a year. The efforts have paid off. North Main St. now has an extra 30mph sign, a radar speed sign with solar power, and the road diet striping.

Road diets slow traffic, reduce noise, reduce pollution, increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, and increase property values. SSMN's Transportation workgroup is now analyzing the results of the Summer Transportation Survey, which had nearly 500 participants, to determine its next actions. Questions? Email us at [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com)



## Solar Gardens Light Lily Lake Ice Arena and St. Croix Valley Rec Center

A big THANK YOU to City Administrator Tom McCarty, Mayor Ted Kozlowski, the City Council, and others, for choosing solar energy to run our city's largest recreation centers. The 25-year agreement with Xcel Energy and local solar farms to supply us with clean energy to maintain these facilities is expected to result in savings of \$1,000,000 (*one million dollars*). This is a great start. Let's keep the momentum!



## SSMN Seeks "Bird City" Certification

The dramatic decline of bird species in North America is disheartening — the Audubon Society says extinction for 389 species could be just decades away. These aren't all exotic species, many are backyard favorites like the American Robin.

Sustainable Stillwater MN is launching a commitment to restore bird habitat, plant more trees, and engage our community in preservation, restoration, and education under the guidelines of the Audubon Society. If their conditions are met, Audubon will designate Stillwater as an official "Bird City." But first the city needs to pass a resolution to become a Bird City. SSMN is hoping to see that done in November. This will bring us environmental improvement, economic benefits, civic pride, good PR, increased community engagement — and of course, the creation of bird sanctuaries here in Stillwater. The first Bird City public event is being planned for International Migratory Bird Day - May 16, 2020, a celebration of our feathered friends, educational exhibits, and opportunities to volunteer. If you are good with kids, we especially want to hear from you as we ramp up our planning! Contact Sheila at [doher4@comcast.net](mailto:doher4@comcast.net).





## Making Stillwater a Better Greenstep City Now SSMN's Focus

We're lucky to live in a state that has created a "how-to" for our cities to green up. Minnesota's GreenStep Cities plan offers voluntary guidelines for cities to sponsor environmental conservation projects, clean energy, sustainable purchasing, green businesses, local food, carbon-free transportation, and more. Cities then choose measures from multiple categories to implement.

In July, 2018, SSMN members packed City Hall to demand that the Stillwater City Council agree to a resolution to become a Greenstep City. The effort resulted in a yes vote. Stillwater has now attained level two of five levels of sustainability. In fact, the city's Greenstep administrator, Graham Tait, is part of our GreenStep group, co-chaired by Ann Martin and Sheila Maybanks.

The Sustainable Stillwater MN Board of Directors this past month voted to focus our efforts as an organization on [these goals](#). We'll continue to push our leaders toward green measures to avert the worst of climate change: public transportation, waterway protection, speedy conversion to clean energy, comprehensive waste management, energy efficiency, livable streets for bikes and pedestrians, sustainable purchasing, urban forests, habitat and soil improvement, local food, green business practices, and lots more.

Philipp Muessig, the Greenstep director at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, recently told us that the most successful Greenstep cities have citizen advocacy groups like Sustainable Stillwater MN — people who don't just push their cities, and they don't just talk.....They DO. [JOIN US!](#)

Learn about GreenStep priorities here: <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us> .

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## SSMN Working for Curbside Composting

Sustainable Stillwater MN has a new group devoted to reusing, recycling, and reducing waste, and curbside business and residential composting. The group is looking to improve public and business recycling and trying to bring curbside composting (residential and business food waste collection) to the entire city, [much like Mahtomedi is doing](#). Several SSMN members are connecting with county and local experts on recycling to get things rolling. Have any expertise in this area? We could use your help! Contact [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com)



## SSMN Asks City for Yard Pollinator Grants

Sustainable Stillwater MN has requested that the City of Stillwater sponsor a program to pay property owners to convert their front yards and "hell strips" or



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Board of Water and Soil Resources, but in order to get the grants, Stillwater needs to agree to be the administrator of the grants for city land owners.

Sustainable Stillwater MN asked Graham Tait, the city's Greenstep administrator, to look into this at their last meeting. We are an important habitat for the [Rusty Patched Bumblebee](#), which has declined by 87 percent in the last 20 years, and other at-risk species. [Check this webpage for additional updates about the program](#) and [sign up to get on the mailing list](#).



## Replace Gas-Guzzling Snowblowers/Mowers With Electric - For Free!

Organizations or companies can apply to the state by November 8, 2019 for free replacement of gas-powered landscape equipment with clean, modern electric versions — but do it quickly! The deadline to apply is November 8. Grants are available to organizations or companies with less than 500 employees.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has \$150,000 in grant funding to replace 2-cycle gasoline-powered landscaping and snow removal equipment with electric-powered equipment.

The average gas-powered push mower emits over 14 pounds of air pollution an hour — the same amount as driving your car 200 miles.

More than \$173,000 in grants have already helped 66 businesses and organizations switch to electric-powered equipment, such as chainsaws, pole pruners, lawn mowers, string or hedge trimmers, and handheld or backpack blowers.

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<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/regulations/grants-alternative-landscaping-equipment>



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# Environmental Issue-Based Town Hall

We invite constituents in 39B to a town hall to speak with **Representative Christensen** about important environmental issues affecting their communities and policy priorities for 2020.

**DATE****November 16,  
2019****LOCATION****Stillwater Public Library**Margaret Rivers Room  
224 3rd Street North  
Stillwater, MN 55082**TIME****10:30–11:30am****CONTACT****[keely@conservationminnesota.org](mailto:keely@conservationminnesota.org)**

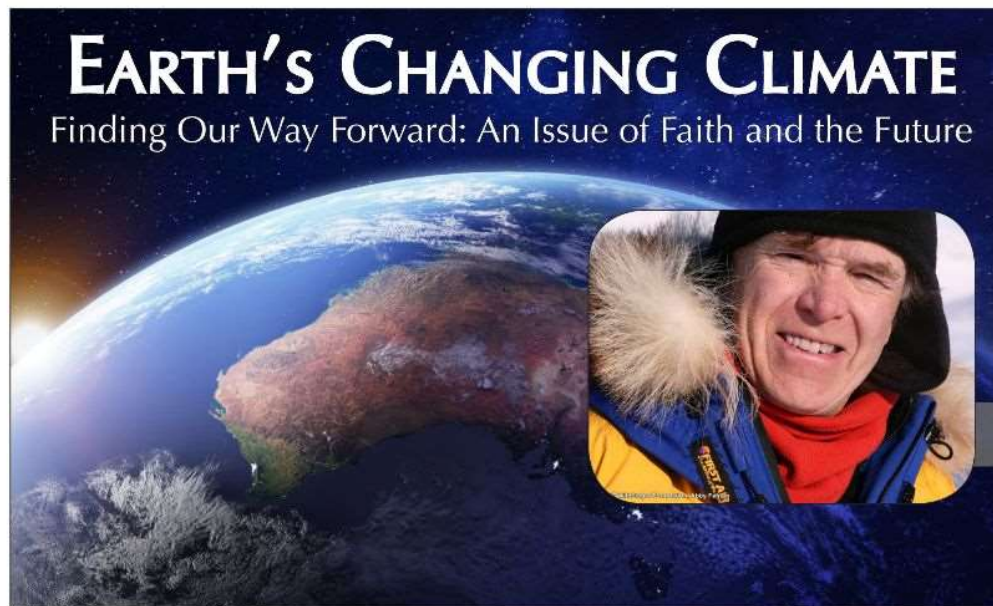
Questions or RSVP





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# WILL STEGER



**Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, 7 p.m.**

**St. Andrew's Sanctuary**

**Followed by a Panel Discussion**

*Save the Date!*

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church**  
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi MN 55115  
[saintandrews.org](http://saintandrews.org) | 651.426.3261

St. Andrew's  
Lutheran  
Church



**This panel of experts will be on stage for the Will Steger event:**

- Buff Grace, Climate Justice Congregations, MN Interfaith Power & Light
- J. Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director, Fresh Energy
- Diane L. Jacobson, Professor Emerita of Old Testament, Luther Seminary

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## The State of the Climate: Nov. 13

**Dr. Mark Seeley, Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota and Retired Chief Climatologist for MPR**

Dr. Seeley shares evidence of Great Lakes Region climate change and its effect on our landscape, crops and seasons. With awareness, we can help mitigate further climate change and adapt to the changes already upon us. [Press on Dr. Seeley in the Star Tribune](#). His address is part of the St. Croix Valley Foundation's "Conversations of the Valley" series inspired by the upcoming 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Lake Elmo Inn Event Center, November 13, 2019, 11:30 am-1 pm. Tickets \$21 include lunch. [More info here](#).



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## Meeting Calendar

>>> Our Board of Directors meetings take place every first Wednesday of the month - the next one is November 6 -- and are open to the public. Community Thread, 2300 Orleans St. W, from 6.30-8.00 pm. For updated details or to get on the agenda contact [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com).

>>> The GreenStep steering team meets the third Wednesday of the month 6:30pm – 8:00pm -- September 18. The next one is November 20. Stillwater Public Library, third floor. For updated details contact us at [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com).

>>> Many smaller teams meet on an irregular schedule - they include the transportation workgroup, the recycling group, the Bird City group, and more. For specific contacts on any of those, we welcome your email [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com).



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Make sure we know your key interest areas so you can be included in mailings for meetings or actions specifically on those topics. Like biking? Eating local food? Green business? Environmental issues? Other topics?

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The SSMN Newsletter is sent on the first of each month. The editors are Wendy Gorski and Kelsey Depew. Email them directly at [ssmn.wendyg@gmail.com](mailto:ssmn.wendyg@gmail.com)

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